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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

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NIC 00870-85
15 February 1985

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Graham E. Fuller
National Intelligence Officer for NESA

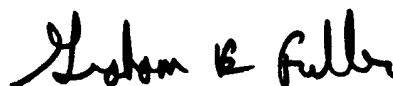
SUBJECT: Hardliners on the Resurgence?

1. Two potentially important events have occurred in PDRY during the past week which may indicate that the pro-Moscow hardliners may be gaining the upper hand in the PDRY.

- Ali Nassar Muhammad al-Hasani, a moderate in the PDRY context, has resigned as Prime Minister. He is being replaced by a relative unknown, but who may be a Hasani supporter. Hasani still retains the General Secretaryship of the ruling Marxist party, but could be slipping.
- 'Abd-al-Pattah Ismail, a strongly pro-Moscow hardliner and former President of PDRY, is returning from several years exile in Moscow to take a position on the Central Committee.

2. Although no one can count out the moderate grouping, Ismail's return from Moscow is disturbing. He is one of the chief authors of the aggressive PDRY policy of the 70's in which PDRY supported armed revolutionary movements inside both the YAR and Oman, up and down the Gulf, and against Saudi Arabia.

3. I have been struck during the past few years with the relatively moderate position PDRY has taken in the region compared with other more radical states: PDRY had been laying off its neighbors. Yet if one posits a more aggressive Soviet position towards the moderates in the period ahead, surely the Soviets will seek to resuscitate the moribund Tripartite Alliance between Ethiopia, Libya and PDRY and will want PDRY to regenerate some of its old support for Marxist liberation movements throughout the peninsula. This bears close watching.


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